

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 ADDIS 00851 221047Z  
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 SS-15 SP-02 INR-10 NEA-10  
NSC-05 DODE-00 CIAE-00 /066 W  
-----114840 221230Z /13S

R 220903Z FEB 78  
FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7399  
INFO AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO  
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ADDIS ABABA 0851

AF FOR HARROP

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: SHUM, PEPR, ET, US  
SUBJ: HUMAN RIGHTS DISCUSSION WITH ETHIOPIAN FONMIN

REF: A. ADDIS ABABA 0822, B. NAIROBI 2628 (NOTAL)

1. HUMAN RIGHTS WAS AN IMPORTANT PART OF THE DISCUSSION  
ON FEB 18 BETWEEN ETHIOPIAN FONMIN AND THE AARON  
DEL. DEP. ASST. SECY. HARROP POINTED OUT THAT  
ASSURANCE OF INDIVIDUAL HUMAN RIGHTS IS A FUNDAMENTAL  
CONCERN OF CARTER ADMINISTRATION AND OF  
CONGRESS, WHICH IS BEING APPLIED ON GLOBAL BASIS. HE  
EXPRESSED ADMIRATION FOR EFFORTS MADE BY EPMG TO CARRY  
OUT LONG OVERDUE REFORMS BENEFITTING POORER ELEMENTS OF  
SOCIETY. AT SAME TIME US LAMENTS LEVEL OF VIOLENCE THAT  
COMES WITH THESE EFFORTS. EVEN SYMPATHETIC CONGRESSMEN  
LIKE TSONGAS AND BOKER HAD TEMPERED THEIR POSITIVE  
RECOMMENDATIONS TO PRES. ON ETHIOPIA WITH  
CRITICISM OF RED TERROR CAMPAIGN, AND IT WAS WITH  
SUCH CONSIDERATION IN MIND THAT US ABSTAINED ON  
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IBRD LOAN LAST YEAR. US DID NOT WISH TO INTERFERE  
IN DOMESTIC CONCERNS OF OTHER GOVTS BUT HUMAN  
RIGHTS VALUES WERE INTERNATIONALLY AGREED UNDER UN  
AEGIS AND WE FELT AN OBLIGATION TO DISCUSS THESE  
PROBLEMS IN OTHER COUNTRIES. MANY COUNTRIES HAVE  
FELT US CRITICISM ON HUMAN RIGHTS, AND CAMPAIGN  
WOULD CONTINUE.

2. MOFA PERMSEC DAWIT ASKED FOR UNDERSTANDING OF SWEEPING CHANGES THAT ETHIOPIAN SOCIETY WAS UNDERGOING, WHICH NECESSARILY AROUSED STRONG NEGATIVE REACTION AMONG SOME CLASSES. THERE WERE KILLINGS ON BOTH SIDES, AND WHILE EPMG ANXIOUS TO STOP KILLINGS AND RESTORE PEACE, GOVT'S CURRENT MEASURES WERE JUSTIFIABLE, GIVEN COMPLEXITY OF SITUATION.

3. FELLEKE ADDED THAT EPMG WAS ATTEMPTING TO AVOID CIVIL WAR AND RESTORE AUTHORITY OVER THOSE OPOSED TO REVOLUTION'S GOALS. BROAD MASSES SUPPORTED REVOLUTION. IF THEY DID NOT, REVOLUTION COULD NOT SURVIVE. ONLY FEUDAL REMNANTS OFFERING FORCIBLE RESISTANCE.

4. AARON SAID THAT WHILE IT WAS HELPFUL TO LEARN OF SERIOUS PROBLEMS EPMG FACED, CONCEPT OF TERROR AND COUNTER-TERROR IS ANATHEMA TO AMERICANS. ACCORDINGLY, SUCH ACTIONS COULD BE EXPECTED TO TROUBLE BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP FOR SOME TIME TO COME. AT SAME TIME HUMANITARIAN ASPECTS OF REVOLUTION WERE FEATURES WITH WHICH US WOULD LIKE TO IDENTIFY.

5. EMBASSY PREPARING FULL MEMCON OF MEETING WITH FELLEKE.  
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MATHERON

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** HUMAN RIGHTS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
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**TAGS:** SHUM, PEPR, ET, US, (HARROP, WILLIA), (AARON, DAVID)  
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